

# Russian Schoolchildren and Astronomy

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# Historical review

- USSR
- 1957 first sputnik
- 1961 Gagarin's flight
- 1970ies Special Astrophysical observatory of USSR Academy of Sciences with the 6-m telescope (biggest in the world)
- A lot of science popular books on astronomy were available
- Books and movies about scientists made heroes of them

# USSR

- Soviet children wanted to get into physics
- Free additional lessons were quite common for school teachers
- Opportunities to spend vacant time were rather modest

# Russia

- Russian children want to find jobs with good salary.
- Russian teachers are very much engaged just to survive.
- Entertainment industry is developing dramatically.

# Challenges

- Astronomy is not obligatory subject at secondary school any longer
- Russian teachers and school children do not speak English good enough
- Russian authorities are not ready to invest money to foreign projects
- No big telescope can be constructed in Russia in the nearest 20 years

# Present and Future

- Russian project: a telescope to each school
- To attract advanced teachers and schoolchildren via Pulkovo observatory web site
- Computer classroom in Pulkovo observatory (internet is finally good enough now)

Children want to know more!

